was vague. However, Applicant's representative contacted the Examiner's supervisor because the Examiner was not available. In a telephonic interview dated April 13, 2006, the Examiner's supervisor agreed that the specification objection only required headings for each section of Applicant's patent application. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the Amendment filed on October 3, 2005 complied with this headings for each section requirement. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to the specification.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Urs et al. (US Patent No. 6,292,781; hereinafter "Urs"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

Urs discloses a method and apparatus for facilitating distributed speech processing in a wireless communication system. A communication unit (102) requests communication services from a communication infrastructure (101) that supports both voice and data communication and utilizes a data connection to a distributed speech processing unit (116) to perform distributed voice recognition and distributed speech synthesis.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Examiner cites column 8, line 12 through column 9, line 52 of Urs for allegedly disclosing processing speech-recognition and non-speech recognition related parts of signals, which are sent from an I-net in response to control signals originating from the terminal. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

Urs discloses a process where user speech comprising a voice command that contains a communication related request is transmitted by a communications united (102) to a distributed speech processing unit (a component of a communication system infrastructure 101) and used by

said distributed speech processing unit to generate messages corresponding to communication service requests. The messages are transmitted to the communication unit (102) via a data connection, and a processor (316) component of the communication unit (102) requests the communication service from the communication infrastructure using the communication service request message generated by the distributed speech processing unit.

Urs further discloses a method for synthesizing information into speech. Keypress information from a keypad (320) or display information from a display (318) is transmitted to the distributed speech processing unit from the communication unit (102) via the data connection. Upon receiving information for synthesis, the distributed speech processor generates speech feature information which is sent to the communication unit (102) and converted into audible speech by the processor (316). The communication infrastructure comprises a base site (104), a switching center (108), a transcoding unit (110), a distributed speech processing unit (116). (see Urs at Figure 1; column 3, lines 56 through 65). The switching center (108) is responsible for switching between opening up a data or a voice path between the communication unit (102) and the distributed speech processor (116) and does so in response to commands from the communication unit (102). (see Urs at column 5, lines 18 through 30; and column 7, lines 21 through 31).

According to the claimed invention, the switch "comprises a detector for detecting speech-recognition and non-speech recognition related parts in...control [and response signals], and a process for, in response to a detection of said speech-recognition or non-speech recognition related parts, processing said control signals and said response signals." On the other hand, in

Urs, the processor (316) in the communication device transmits commands to the communication infrastructure (101) to open up data or voice channels for transmitting voice and data signals. (see Urs, column 7, lines 22 through 32).

Moreover, in the claimed invention, the processor and detection means reside in the switch, and detect and process the speech-recognition and non-speech recognition related parts in a control or response signal. (see Figure 1). On the other hand, the processor (316) in the communication unit performs feature extraction of speech data from a voice signal. (see Urs at column 7, lines 44 through 53).

Lastly, the response signals in the claimed invention are sent from memory and then processed in response to the detection of speech-recognition or non-speech-recognition related parts. Urs merely discloses information such as stock, news, or weather information being sent from the Internet to a communications unit, (see Urs, column 7, lines 54 through 65), or purely speech feature information for conversion into audible speech, (see Urs, column 8, line 45 through column 9, line 7). Urs does not disclose that the response signal is composed of both speech-recognition and non-speech-recognition related parts.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Urs does not teach or suggest a switch comprising a detector and processor for detecting and processing speech and non-speech recognition related parts in a signal, nor does Urs teach or suggest a response signal from memory that is processed upon detection of speech and non-speech-recognition related parts. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-4, should be allowable over the cited reference.

Independent claims 5, 8 and 10 recite features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, and are rejected based on similar grounds. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 5, 8 and 10, as well as dependent claims 6, 7 and 9, should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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